



Community of care

Advisory Council Update

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The Community of Care Advisory Council (COCAC) has forwarded the recommendations of the Family Action Committee's Respite Subcommittee to the Child Serving Agencies. The recommendations include: 1) Support expansion of existing respite care programs, 2) Fund a "Care Givers Night Out", and 3) Identify one agency as the key infor-

mation and referral agency for respite care.

During July, the Council will be reviewing the recommendations from the Resource Management Committee in regard to sustaining the efforts that have been undertaken through the grant dollars allotted through the Children's

Mental Health Initiative. The grant will begin the sixth and final year of funding in September 2003.

The Community of Care General Meeting on July 10th will be held at the Jim Parsley Center, 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

High Marks for Children System of Care Program

A final evaluation released recently the independent COSMOS Corporation concludes that Community Services, with guidance from the Community of Care Advisory Council, receives high marks for the implementation and outcome of the Children's System of Care project.

This was funded by a five-year grant from the substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The long-term goal was to build and sustain a compre-

hensive system of care for all Clark County children diagnosed with serious emotional challenges, ensuring full involvement of families at the system, program, and practice levels.

Other goals were to consolidate funding streams, increase accountability, sustain gains through financial reinvestment, assure interagency involvement, and create state and local partnerships.

The study determined that, based on results, the program will enjoy continued success.

For detailed information, regarding the grant and final report, please visit the Clark County website:
www.clark.wa.gov/comserv/care/index.htm

Children's Mental Health Initiative Supports Clark County

With the support of the CMHI grant and the dedication of agencies, families, and dedicated support staff, the following accomplishments have been achieved over the past five years:

- Development of a Community of Care Advisory Council that is prepared to coordinate efforts to assure that the work begun by the CMHI grant continues beyond the grant
- Established a Parent Partner Program to support families navigating through the child serving systems.
- Cultural Competency Standards developed and implemented through the mental health provider agencies
- Services provided to 120 youth probationers with serious emotional disabilities in the Connections Project
- Helped to establish the Community Empowerment Project, dedicated to *"Strengthen Clark County—One Family at a Time."*
- Distributed over \$83,000 to families of children with diagnosed or diagnosable mental health issues.
- Redesigned Mental Health Services to include WrapAround and System of Care Values and Principles and significantly decreased the number of psychiatric hospitalizations.

Clark County has the lowest utilization in the state of Washington.

Ways to get involved in the Community of Care Advisory Council

The Community of Care Advisory Council Mission Statement: The mission of the Clark County Community of Care Advisory Council is to help build and sustain a community of care in Clark County.

Ways to can get involved in the Community of Care Advisory Council:

- * Become a member & stay aware.
- * Join a committee & make recommendations
- * Run for office & provide leadership
- * Connect with others

The Community of Care Advisory Council meets quarterly.
See page four of this newsletter for meeting dates.

For questions regarding the Community of Care Advisory Council activities please contact Denise Martino @ Clark County Department of Community Services, PO Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666-5000, Phone (360) 397-2130 or e-mail Denise.Martino@clark.wa.gov

Community of Care Advisory Council Seeking Family Participation

The Family Action Committee is currently seeking three family members to participate on the Community of Care Advisory Council.

The Family Action Committee is responsible for encouraging community participation and soliciting input that will strengthen the Community of Care for children and families in Clark County. The committee consists of family members and members of various community agencies, and was developed to assure family input on various Aspects of the Clark County Community of Care, including:

- * Develop an avenue for consumers of children's mental health and social services to be heard
- * Define the common barriers experienced by families
- * Use their voices as a whole to explore ways to improve services
- * Provide a venue for family voice

For more information, contact Denise Martino @ Clark County Department of Community Services @ 360-397-2130 or email Denise.Martino@clark.wa.gov

Exceptional Efforts Awards Excepting Nominations for October 2, 2003

The Family Action Committee of the Community of Care Advisory Council is accepting Nominations for the Exceptional Efforts Awards.

This recognition is offered to anyone serving Clark County youth and/or their families who has demonstrated outstanding and inspirational actions in the area of service/support to members of our community.

The nominee may be an individual (youth or adult) or an organization/program, and nominations may be made at any time. The awarded nominee is recognized at the Community of Care general meetings, held on a quarterly basis. See page four of this newsletter for meeting dates.



For more information or to obtain a form, contact Denise Martino @ 360-397-2130 or fax 360-397-2164

Community of Care Advisory Council Meetings

General Membership Meetings:

Meetings held on the 1st Thursday, quarterly from 5:30-7:30 PM (5:30 Networking and Refreshments)

Next Meeting on October 2, 2003

Location: Jim Parsley Center (JPC)

4100 Plomondon Street
Vancouver, WA

* January 8th, 2004

Location: To be determined

Family Action Committee (FAC)

Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of every month, 4:00-5:30 P.M.

July 24

August 28

September 25

October 23

* November 20

* December 18

Location: Jim Parsley Center (JPC) 4100 Plomondon Street
Vancouver, WA

Resource Management Committee (RMC)

Meetings held on the 1st Friday of every month, 9:30-11:30 A.M.

August 1

September 5

October 3

November 7

December 5

Location: Youth House
1112 Columbia, Vancouver WA

* Rescheduled due to Holiday

Require Assistance or Childcare to Attend?

For more information, contact Denise Martino @ 360-397-2130
or email denise.martino@clark.wa.gov.

Resource Management Committee Update

At the September 30, 2002 meeting of the Resource Management Committee Retreat with John Franz, the following task was defined:

Develop a resource management baseline for services for multi-system children and families, including: all initiatives supported by the CMHI grant, plus additional amounts being spent for multi-system children, by each system.

The objective was to gather the information needed to develop an effective strategy

for sustaining what's working and filling in the gaps that have been missed.

This objective was developed to support the mission of the Community of Care Advisory Council: to help build and sustain a community of care for children and families in Clark County.

As a result of these goals, the RMC spent the last year reviewing the grant budget and expenditures. The RMC will be making recommendations regarding sustaining programs and projects developed

through the Children's Mental Health Initiative.

Additional information will be provided in the October newsletter and at the general meeting held on October 2nd.



SYSTEM OF CARE PRINCIPLES and VALUES

The Clark County Community of Care **envisions** building and sustaining a system of care for children and families, based on the following guiding principles and core values.

Guiding Principles:

- Family focused – Services and supports should consider the needs and strengths of the entire family.
- Individualized – Services and supports should be tailored to the needs and strengths of each child and family.
- Culturally Competent – Services and supports should be sensitive and responsive to the cultural characteristics of children and families.
- Least Restrictive – Service planning should balance a child and family's need to interact in school and community settings with the most appropriate services and supports.

Core Values:

- Family driven/culture based
- Community based – services should be provided in the child and family's community.
- Accessible – Access to services and supports should not be limited by location, cost, or scheduling.
- Interagency – core agencies providing services and supports should include mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and education.

The Community of Care Newsletter is generated on a quarterly basis. The next newsletter will be posted on the County Website, October 2003.

For more information contact Denise Martino @
Clark County Department of Community Services
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Mental Health Resources on the Internet

For information about children's Mental Health, contact SAMHSA's National Mental Health information Center:

Toll Free-1-800-789-2647
Fax: 301-984-8796
TDD: 866-889-2647

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

Clinical Trials Gov National Institutes of Health
<http://clinicaltrials.gov/>

Substance abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov

National Institute of Mental Health
www.nimh.gov

Kids Sites:

<http://www.mentalhealth.org/kidsarealinks.asp>

Clark Co SOC Data Reports
Portland State University
Website:
<http://www.rri.pdx.edu/>
ClarkCo



Comprehensive Community Mental health Services for Children and Their Families Program
Child, Adolescent and Family Branch Center for Mental Health Services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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